

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 12, with the following redlined paragraph.

--Figure 1 presents a cDNA sequence for DSP-15 (SEQ ID NO:~~128~~), with the start and stop codons shown in bold.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 12, with the following redlined paragraph.

--A cDNA sequence encoding DSP-15 is provided in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:28; see also SEQ ID NO:1), and the predicted amino acid sequence is provided in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2). A cDNA sequence encoding a DSP-15 alternate form is provided in Figure ~~5-4~~ (SEQ ID NO:29; see also SEQ ID NO:20), and the predicted amino acid sequence is provided in Figure ~~6~~ 5 (SEQ ID NO:21). The DSP-15 active site VHCKMGVRS (SEQ ID NO:16), is encoded by nucleotide bases located at nucleotide positions 1233 through 1260 of SEQ ID NO:1 (Fig. 1; start codon begins at nucleotide position number 1). Sequence information immediately adjacent to this site was used to design 5' and 3' RACE reactions with human brain, skeletal muscle and testis cDNA to identify a protein of 659 amino acids encoded by 1977 base pairs. This protein is referred to as dual specificity phosphatase-~~315~~, or DSP-15. Higher message abundance was observed for DSP-15 in human skeletal muscle tissue than in other tissues. DSP-15 shows significant homology to other MAP-kinase phosphatases, as shown by the sequence comparison presented in Figure 3.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 53, line 8, with the following redlined paragraph.

--PCR and RACE reactions were performed using the PCR-5' primer and the GSP2.5 primer, and the reaction products were sequenced according to standard procedures. A cDNA (Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:28); SEQ ID NO:1) encoding a protein of 659 amino acids (Figure 2; SEQ ID NO:2) was identified as DSP-15. This sequence has significant homology to other MAP-kinase phosphatases (Figure 6), including DSP-12 and DSP-13 (which are disclosed in

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/179,886 filed February 2, 2000, and which is hereby incorporated by reference). A second cDNA (Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:29,-); SEQ ID NO:20) encoding a protein of 471 amino acids (Figure 5, SEQ ID NO:21) was also identified as a DSP-15 alternate form, apparently (and according to non-limiting theory) a truncated form produced by alternate splicing of a DSP-15 encoding ~~transcipt~~transcript. As shown in Figure 6, DSP-15 (and DSP-15 alternate form) exhibit high homology with AB036834, a MAP kinase phosphatase from *Drosophila*. The identified cDNA contains the 1977 base pair coding region, as well as associated 5' and 3' untranslated sequences. The active site domain for DSP-15 was localized to the region encoded by nucleotides beginning at position 1233 through 1260 of SEQ ID NO:1 (Fig. 1; start codon begins at nucleotide position number 1). The MAP kinase phosphatases shown in Figure 6 clearly represent a distinct DSP subfamily. Based on the HTGS database entry AP001885, which was identified as described above, the chromosomal location of the gene encoding DSP-15 was assigned to human chromosome 11q.--

Please delete the section of the application entitled Sequence Listing immediately after the section of the specification entitled Abstract of the Disclosure on page 70 and insert the enclosed Sequence Listing therefor.